

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:JSROY:MFR

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EA-OVARMSTRONG

S/S-MR. BRIDGES

EA-RHMILLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 196799

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: PRC HARD LINE ON TAIWAN

REF: PEKING 1455

1. WE APPRECIATED YOUR ANALYSIS OF THE TOUGH LANGUAGE THE CHINESE ARE NOW USING ON THE TAIWAN QUESTION. WE ARE CONSIDERING THE ADVISABILITY OF RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE CHINESE ALONG THE LINES YOU SUGGESTED.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE OF FOLLOWING BACKGROUND CONCERNING GELB STORY THAT APPEARED IN NY TIMES AUGUST 3. STORY RESULTED FROM CONVERSATION THAT SEVERAL US CORRESPONDENTS HAD WITH PRCLO COUNSELOR HSIEH CHI-MEI APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO DURING WHICH HSIEH INSISTED THAT THE ONLY WAY CHINA COULD 'LIBERATE' TAIWAN IS THROUGH MILITARY FORCE. HSIEH, WHEN PRESSED, CLAIMED THAT THE PRC POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT TAIWAN'S LIBERATION WOULD

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HAVE TO BE BY MILITARY MEANS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION,

HSIEH SAID HE PRESUMED THE PRC POSITION ON MILITARY
LIBERATION HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO USG. CORRESPONDENTS
RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT HSIEH'S TRANSPARENT PURPOSE IN

MEETING WITH THEM WAS TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE ON MILITARY
LIBERATION. WHEN INFORMED THAT GELB INTENDED TO PUBLISH
A STORY BASED ON HSIEH'S COMMENTS, HSIEH READILY AGREED
ON CONDITION THAT GELB WOULD NOT IDENTIFY OFFICIAL
CHINESE AS THE SOURCE.

HABIB

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